

Beirut shelling unabated

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival gunners traded tank and artillery fire in Beirut and its surroundings Monday, killing one person and wounding 15, police said. Artillery explosions jolted both sides of the divided capital at dawn as the confrontation between Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen and army commander Michel Aoun's 20,000 troops dragged on with no solution in sight. Monday's exchanges raised the overall toll to 419 killed and 1,688 wounded since the current cycle in the 14-year-old civil war erupted March 8. Civilians huddled in basements and underground shelters as gunners showered the city and nearby hills with howitzers, mortars and tank fire. The exchanges started when batteries deployed in west Beirut's seaside "Ain Mrizeh" Boulevard fired on the coast of north of Beirut, maintaining a sea blockade to prevent arms supplies from reaching the beleaguered enclave by sea. Spokesmen for Aoun's command said Syrian gunboats that had been patrolling the 45-kilometre coastline have withdrawn to a point 15-kilometre beyond territorial waters.

Jordan Times

An independent Arabic political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورنال تايمز جريدة مستقلة بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسات العربية الأردنية (الرأي)

Volume 14 Number 4137

AMMAN TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1989, DHUL HIJJEH 15, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Army destroys Gaza homes

CUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers today blew up the homes of Palestinians as the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip served a general strike called underground uprising leaders protest harsh conditions in their prisons. Shops and businesses were cut throughout the occupied territories, and public transport halted. More than 8,600 students currently are in detention.

Three Palestinians were shot wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories Monday, reports said. Also Monday, the Palestinian Popular Army distributed a leaflet accusing Palestinian university professor Sari Nusseibeh of misappropriating funds meant for the uprising. The popular army, which has bases in a number of towns and villages, stages marches and mass strike calls and other unised activity.

The "warlord" Sari Nusseibeh secretly left the country with help of the Zionist Shin Bet but it was discovered large sums of money given to him to be tributed to the popular armies' strike forces were "lost" on the way, the leaflet said.

In talks during the economic summit in Paris last week, the foreign ministers of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany said they would support a conference at the right time and if it was properly structured.

Washington has not been enthusiastic about the conference

RIVADH (Agencies) — A bomb exploded in Mecca Monday, and sources said the blast, the third in Islam's holiest city in one week, caused no casualties or damage.

An official security source, in a statement carried by Riyadh Radio, said a blast occurred after 1 a.m. (2200 GMT Sunday) in an unoccupied area on Mount Qubais, near the Grand Mosque.

He described the explosion as "small," and said that security authorities have launched an investigation into the incident.

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A member of the ruling politburo met striking miners in the Siberian city of Prokopyevsk Monday to try to end a dispute which has paralysed the Soviet Union's second-largest coalfield, a local official said.

Nikolai Slyunkov, who heads a commission on social and economic affairs, addressed crowds in the central square in Kemerovo before heading for Prokopyevsk, the centre of the week-old dispute in the Kuznetsky Basin (Kuzbass) region, the official said.

Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said he and President Mikhail Gorbachev had sent a personal appeal Sunday to strikers about what has become the worst labour dispute to face the Soviet leader since he came to power in 1985.

In a speech to the Soviet parlia-



The leaders of the seven main Western industrial nations, with EEC President Jacques Delors, left, in Paris at the weekend. The others, left to right, are: Italian Premier Ciriaco De Mita, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, U.S. President George Bush, French

President Francois Mitterrand, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Canadian Premier Brian Mulroney and Japanese Prime Minister Sosuke Uno.

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League welcomed Monday the qualified support given by the world's leading industrialised countries — the Group of Seven (G-7) for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

A league statement said: "It is a positive step that the seven leaders favoured holding the international conference, even if their position was framed in terms which clearly show that some parties have their own concepts about the conference."

"We hope it indicates the start of an evolution in the U.S. stand and it no doubt contains a warning to Israel," it added.

In talks during the economic summit in Paris last week, the foreign ministers of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany said they would support a conference at the right time and if it was properly structured.

Washington has not been enthusiastic about the conference

idea and has repeatedly added the "properly structured" proviso.

A senior U.S. official said last week that Washington might take a closer look at the conference proposal if it proved impossible to move towards a Middle East settlement on the basis of Israel's proposal for elections in the occupied territories.

"But if we find that the American and Soviet policies agreed to adopt the Israeli stand, making our policy and expression of nothing, of course we would reconsider our policy," he told the daily.

Hassan said the current PLO stand was "based on strategy and not a tactic."

The PLO peace initiative was launched last November.

Israeli message

Israeli Interior Minister Arye Dery was expected to be received by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a visit to Cairo beginning Monday, Israel radio said.

Dery, of the religious Shas party,

pendent state and the right to self-determination, we shall proceed," said Khaled Al Hassan, a member of the central committee of Fatah, the PLO's mainstream faction.

"But if we find that the American and Soviet policies agreed to adopt the Israeli stand, making our policy and expression of nothing, of course we would reconsider our policy," he told the daily.

Hassan said the current PLO stand was "based on strategy and not a tactic."

The PLO peace initiative was launched last November.

Israeli message

Israeli Interior Minister Arye Dery was expected to be received by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a visit to Cairo beginning Monday, Israel radio said.

Dery, of the religious Shas party,

Fresh blast in Mecca; no damage

RIVADH (Agencies) — A bomb exploded in Mecca Monday, and sources said the blast, the third in Islam's holiest city in one week, caused no casualties or damage.

They said it was crude device, similar to the two that exploded last Monday, one on a road leading to the Grand Mosque and another on an overpass. Such bombs, they added, are designed to cause loud bangs but little damage.

The two explosions last week killed a Pakistani pilgrim and wounded 16 other wor-

shippers at the height of the pilgrimage season. They went off early in the night, while pilgrims still were awake, offering prayers or visiting the Kaaba, the holy shrine within the Grand Mosque.

Some two million Muslims gathered in Mecca, birthplace of the Prophet Mohammad, for this year's pilgrimage, which culminated Thursday with 'Eid Al Adha.

On Monday, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims still were in the Holy City awaiting return flights home.

Saudi authorities made no accusations after last week's explosions, but there has been speculation Iran was behind them.

No arrests have been made, but sources say several people have been questioned.

Iran boycotted this year's pilgrimage to protest a quota system imposed by Saudi Arabia. It was the second year that Iran has stayed away from Hajj.

Saudi Arabia Saturday denied reports that it had arrested two people in connection with last Monday's blasts.

The strike committee did not include representatives from municipal party and government bodies, but local authorities support the job action, according to Serdisev and published reports.

The miners were divided over whether to extend the strike to other enterprises in the region and whether to stop delivery of mined coal to factories outside the region, according to Serdisev and Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper.

"The strike committee in Prokopyevsk decided to stop the shipment of fuel to users, which will in turn affect the country's

steel workers," Pravda said in a dispatch from the region.

However, strikers from Kemerovo, the regional administrative centre, wanted to continue to ship coal that had already been mined.

The strike has taken its toll on the region's economy.

Striking miners have urged other workers in the area to join the stoppage, with some apparently heeding the call.

The government newspaper Izvestia said the effects of the stoppage were already being felt in industrial regions elsewhere.

"Alarming telegrams are coming in from the Urals and the south of the Ukraine," Izvestia said.

The strike began over bad supplies of food and consumer goods and poor provision of social facilities, but the strikers' demands have since broadened.

That incident diverted attention from the Abkhaz issue until last week, when Georgians announced plans to open a branch of Tbilisi university in Sukhumi, despite fierce objections from the Abkhazians.

Pilia said Georgian Communist Party chief Givi Gumaridze, who arrived in Sukhumi Sunday from the Georgian capital, Tbilisi

Tuesday.

The miners from Prokopyevsk joined with those from eight other towns in Kuzbass to form the strike committee. The chairman of the committee was Yuri Rudolf, a striker from the Kalinin mine, said Serdisev.

The strike committee did not include representatives from municipal party and government bodies, but local authorities support the job action, according to Serdisev and published reports.

The miners were divided over whether to extend the strike to other enterprises in the region and whether to stop delivery of mined coal to factories outside the region, according to Serdisev and Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper.

"The strike committee in Prokopyevsk decided to stop the shipment of fuel to users, which will in turn affect the country's

steel workers," Pravda said in a dispatch from the region.

However, strikers from Kemerovo, the regional administrative centre, wanted to continue to ship coal that had already been mined.

The strike has taken its toll on the region's economy.

Striking miners have urged other workers in the area to join the stoppage, with some apparently heeding the call.

The government newspaper Izvestia said the effects of the stoppage were already being felt in industrial regions elsewhere.

"Alarming telegrams are coming in from the Urals and the south of the Ukraine," Izvestia said.

The strike began over bad supplies of food and consumer goods and poor provision of social facilities, but the strikers' demands have since broadened.

That incident diverted attention from the Abkhaz issue until last week, when Georgians announced plans to open a branch of Tbilisi university in Sukhumi, despite fierce objections from the Abkhazians.

Pilia said Georgian Communist Party chief Givi Gumaridze, who arrived in Sukhumi Sunday from the Georgian capital, Tbilisi

Tuesday.

The miners from Prokopyevsk joined with those from eight other towns in Kuzbass to form the strike committee. The chairman of the committee was Yuri Rudolf, a striker from the Kalinin mine, said Serdisev.

The strike committee did not include representatives from municipal party and government bodies, but local authorities support the job action, according to Serdisev and published reports.

The miners were divided over whether to extend the strike to other enterprises in the region and whether to stop delivery of mined coal to factories outside the region, according to Serdisev and Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper.

"The strike committee in Prokopyevsk decided to stop the shipment of fuel to users, which will in turn affect the country's

steel workers," Pravda said in a dispatch from the region.

However, strikers from Kemerovo, the regional administrative centre, wanted to continue to ship coal that had already been mined.

The strike has taken its toll on the region's economy.

Striking miners have urged other workers in the area to join the stoppage, with some apparently heeding the call.

The government newspaper Izvestia said the effects of the stoppage were already being felt in industrial regions elsewhere.

"Alarming telegrams are coming in from the Urals and the south of the Ukraine," Izvestia said.

The strike began over bad supplies of food and consumer goods and poor provision of social facilities, but the strikers' demands have since broadened.

That incident diverted attention from the Abkhaz issue until last week, when Georgians announced plans to open a branch of Tbilisi university in Sukhumi, despite fierce objections from the Abkhazians.

Pilia said Georgian Communist Party chief Givi Gumaridze, who arrived in Sukhumi Sunday from the Georgian capital, Tbilisi

Tuesday.

The miners from Prokopyevsk joined with those from eight other towns in Kuzbass to form the strike committee. The chairman of the committee was Yuri Rudolf, a striker from the Kalinin mine, said Serdisev.

The strike committee did not include representatives from municipal party and government bodies, but local authorities support the job action, according to Serdisev and published reports.

The miners were divided over whether to extend the strike to other enterprises in the region and whether to stop delivery of mined coal to factories outside the region, according to Serdisev and Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper.

"The strike committee in Prokopyevsk decided to stop the shipment of fuel to users, which will in turn affect the country's

steel workers," Pravda said in a dispatch from the region.

However, strikers from Kemerovo, the regional administrative centre, wanted to continue to ship coal that had already been mined.

The strike has taken its toll on the region's economy.

Striking miners have urged other workers in the area to join the stoppage, with some apparently heeding the call.

The government newspaper Izvestia said the effects of the stoppage were already being felt in industrial regions elsewhere.

"Alarming telegrams are coming in from the Urals and the south of the Ukraine," Izvestia said.

The strike began over bad supplies of food and consumer goods and poor provision of social facilities, but the strikers' demands have since broadened.

That incident diverted attention from the Abkhaz issue until last week, when Georgians announced plans to open a branch of Tbilisi university in Sukhumi, despite fierce objections from the Abkhazians.

Pilia said Georgian Communist Party chief Givi Gumaridze, who arrived in Sukhumi Sunday from the Georgian capital, Tbilisi

Tuesday.

The miners from Prokopyevsk joined with those from eight other towns in Kuzbass to form the strike committee. The chairman of the committee was Yuri Rudolf, a striker from the Kalinin mine, said Serdisev.

The strike committee did not include representatives from municipal party and government bodies, but local authorities support the job action, according to Serdisev and published reports.

The miners were divided over whether to extend the strike to other enterprises in the region and whether to stop delivery of mined coal to factories outside the region, according to Serdisev and Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper.

"The strike committee in Prokopyevsk decided to stop the shipment of fuel to users, which will in turn affect the country's

steel workers," Pravda said in a dispatch from the region.

However, strikers from Kemerovo, the regional administrative centre, wanted to continue to ship coal that had already been mined.

The strike has taken its toll on the region's economy.

Striking miners have urged other workers in the area to join the stoppage, with some apparently heeding the call.

The government newspaper Izvestia said the effects of the stoppage were already being felt in industrial regions elsewhere.

"Alarming telegrams are coming in from the Urals and the south of the Ukraine," Izvestia said.

The strike began over bad supplies of food and consumer goods and poor provision of social facilities, but the strikers' demands have since broadened.

That incident diverted attention from the Abkhaz issue until last week, when Georgians announced plans to open a branch of Tbilisi university in Sukhumi, despite fierce objections from the Abkhazians.

Pilia said Georgian Communist Party chief Givi Gumaridze, who arrived in Sukhumi Sunday from the Georgian capital, Tbilisi

Tuesday.

The miners from Prokopyevsk joined with those from eight other towns in Kuzbass to form the strike committee. The chairman of the committee was Yuri Rudolf, a striker from the Kalinin mine, said Serdisev.

The strike committee did not

SLA shells PLO bases

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli-allied militiamen shelled Palestinian military positions in South Lebanon Monday and threatened to hit refugee camps if resistance fighters do not retreat from positions they acquired four months ago.

Police said the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia shelled the new positions in the hills of Baslaya, eight kilometres east of the port city of Sidon. No casualties were reported.

Antoine Lahd, commander of the 2,500-strong SLA, threatened to shell Sidon's refugee camps of Mieh Mieh and 'Ain Al Hilweh if the guerrillas do not withdraw from Baslaya.

The threat was reported by the SLA's Voice of the South radio station. No deadline was set.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, said Baslaya's hills command the road linking Sidon and the town of Jezzine on the northern tip of Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Baslaya was controlled by units of the Lebanese army under Michel Aoun. The regu-



Resistance fighters fire at Israeli and South Lebanon Army positions in South Lebanon in a confrontation last week. Resistance attacks

mounted by Palestinian as well as Lebanese fighters are a regular occurrence in South Lebanon.

Yasser Arafat, PLO guerrillas punched out from 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh and seized Baslaya after a

confrontation between Aoun and Syrian-backed militiamen broke out in Beirut and its environs last March.

lars withdrew after a meeting in February in Tunis between Aoun and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman

Yasser Arafat. PLO guerrillas punched out from 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh and seized Baslaya after a

confrontation between Aoun and Syrian-backed militiamen broke out in Beirut and its environs last March.

Baslaya was controlled by units of the Lebanese army under Michel Aoun. The regu-

Kabul seeks formal U.S. request for journalist's release

KABUL (AP) — The Afghan government said Monday it must have a formal letter from the U.S. government requesting the release of an American photographer captured after entering the country with guerrillas.

Tony O'Brien, who was on assignment for Time-Life Inc., was arrested June 8 in Kabul at a hideout used by the U.S.-backed guerrillas who are trying to overthrow the Soviet-supported government.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the Afghan government had decided in principle to release the 43-year-old photographer. "But we

Israeli army, Palestinians battle for control of 'liberated' village

By Nicholas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

SALFIT, Occupied Jerusalem — For nearly a year, Salfit was a "liberated" village.

Palestinian flags fluttered from light poles. Palestinian activists patrolled the streets. anti-Israeli slogans covered the walls and popular committees did the work of city hall.

No longer.

At dawn, on July 5, Israeli army troops stormed the West Bank village of 5,000. The troops reopened army-run government offices, which had been attacked and burned by protesters in January.

"This is a test case. We went in because Salfit had been portrayed as a main centre of the intifada," said Colonel Udi.

Udi, who identified himself only by first name under military custom, heads the army's "civil administration unit" in the area.

He said he planned to reopen the village medical centre, reconnect telephones, restore postal and agricultural extension services and get road construction restarted.

"The first goal of the intifada leaders has been to cut the ties between the Israeli authorities and the people," he said.

"If the economic support to these people is greater, maybe they will be less radical towards Israeli authorities."

The Israeli officer said he hoped for a restoration of nor-

mal life in Salfit as an example and influence on the smaller, neighbouring villages that look to the larger village for services. Since the start of the 19-month Palestinian uprising, Salfit was largely ignored by the army.

The village is only 30 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem. But it is located in rocky hills far from major highways and Jewish settlements, isolated at the end of a single, winding road.

Then, last January, Palestinians forced all government offices to close in Salfit.

The activists put up their symbols of defiance: red, black, white and green flags in the town centre with a map of the would-be Palestinian state.

Popular committees were organised by activists aligned with the Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Communist groups set up underground schools, medical services and street cleaning services.

Salfit became a microcosm of the independent state that many Palestinians hope to achieve.

"There is no higher voice than the voice of the intifada," read one slogan scrawled on a wall that had been painted and repainted by the opposing sides.

Rafaat, 29, a blacksmith on a main street, said there has been little resistance to the army takeover because about 200

Palestinian activists fled into the surrounding countryside to avoid arrest.

"We were liberated for a few months. But now there is more tension because at any moment a soldier can stop you or arrest you," said Rafaat, who declined to give his full name for fear of reprisal.

Signs of the protests are still visible. Burnt tyres and scorched stones partially block one entrance to the village.

Ahmad, a 25-year-old grocer, said soldiers patrol frequently, but that small acts of defiance continue. The previous night, youths put up about 100 flags, he said.

A soldier guarding the new military encampment, flying the blue-and-white Israeli flag, disputed the claim.

He said there were only two flags and that "the town is so quiet now that we go on patrol with just our berets and no helmets."

Meanwhile, about a dozen Palestinians gathered at the "civil administration" offices. One man said he wanted an entry permit to the West Bank for a relative who lives in Jordan. Another said he wanted a travel document to return to his job in the Arab Gulf.

Yet another came to pick up his identification card, seized during a search-and-arrest raid. The man, head wound bandaged, said he had been injured by the Israeli soldiers.

All were kept waiting for

hours, even though a reporter who entered the encampment found two army officers sitting alone in their offices. "Let them wait for a while," said the guard with a shrug.

Bassam Abu Maadi, a 37-year-old doctor, said Palestinian activists and the army were carefully watching each other to see what happens next.

He said the rebellion would continue.

"It will not stop in Salfit as long as the intifada continues elsewhere in the West Bank. It will not stop until there is some hope offered for the future," Abu Naadi said.

He said three Salfit residents had been shot to death and about 50 wounded, and about 250 detained at one time or another during the uprising.

Abu Maadi said arbitrary actions and collective punishments had left their residue of resentment against Israel.

He recalled that after a Jewish settler was killed in the West Bank in early June, soldiers came to his house, broke the porch lights and smashed a front window.

"I came downstairs and opened the door. An officer hit me in the face without warning or comment. He then ordered me to go to the school where everyone was being rounded up," recalled Abu Maadi.

"If I do something wrong, I will accept punishment. But this is punishing everyone."

The 295-seat chamber convened an extraordinary summer

Iraq says Iran not serious for peace, should not get arms

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein denounced Iran Monday for what he described as bad faith in peace talks and warned other countries not to sell it arms, saying this would encourage Tehran to launch an "adventure."

Speaking on the 21st anniversary of the coup which brought the Socialist Baath party to power, Hussein said: "Giving Iran weapons in any quantity or of any type...encourages it to...commit an adventure which threatens the region's security and stability."

The Soviet Union, one of Iraq's main arms suppliers in the eight-year Gulf war which halted with a ceasefire last August, agreed last month to boost Iran's defence capabilities. It gave no details of the help it would give.

Diplomats said Baghdad was angry at the rapprochement between Moscow and Tehran, which also included cooperation on industrial and energy projects.

Hussein said Iran's Islamic fundamentalist rulers had "show no tangible readiness to enter into real...negotiations to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace."

Four rounds of U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq have made little headway. Iran says Iraqi troops still occupy 2,600 square kilometres of its territory while Iraq says the border Shatt Al Arab waterway, its outlet to the Gulf, must first be cleared of war debris.

Hussein said Iraq sought lasting peace and would reject any settlement that would "consecrate the state of war and no peace."

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed in the war, which devastated the economies of both countries.

Lebanon was "the most painful wound in the current Arab situation," he said.

In his 22-page address he expressed "sincere support" for an Arab League committee trying, so far unsuccessfully, to mediate an end to the 14-year-old crisis in Lebanon.



Saddam Hussein

He praised the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the recent formation of the Arab Cooperation Council, comprising Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen.

Turning to domestic issues, the Iraqi leader praised the flourishing military industries and reconstruction projects launched in war-ravaged cities after the ceasefire halted the war in Lebanon.

Projects completed in the southern cities of Basra and Fao, which had been leveled in the war.

He praised the uprisings, saying it underscored the Arabs' rejection of "plots designed to lead our people to despair."

He said the ACC launched in February "reflects the awareness of plots being hatched by powers harbouring ill-intentions toward our people."

On the military industries, he said: "Our defence capabilities have been boosted to the extent that will make our enemies think hard before launching any attack against us."

Iraq is driving hard to build up its own arms industry. It is already building surface-to-surface missiles, T-72 tanks and artillery guns based on Soviet designs.

Although these largely involve assembling kits provided by the Soviets, the Iraqis are developing their own production lines and eventually hope to manufacture domestically produced weapons.

They are negotiating with the Soviets, French and British to build combat aircraft under licence to build up their own aerospace industry.

PLO complains to Washington

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has protested to the United States over remarks by assistant secretary of state John Kelly in which he said the U.S.-PLO dialogue had accomplished nothing.

Kelly told a congressional hearing last week that nothing had been achieved in seven months of talks with the PLO and that the dialogue need not continue indefinitely.

In a memorandum handed to U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau in Tunis, the PLO said Kelly's testimony was "regressive, inconsistent and an attempt to interpret the PLO-American dialogue in a way which conflicted with its original purpose," the PLO news agency WAFA said Monday.

The PLO representative to Tunisia, Hakim Balawi, gave Pelletreau the memorandum Saturday evening.

Balawi rebuked Washington for failing to take a strong stand on Israeli attempts to suppress intifada, WAFA added.

The United States has used its veto or abstained in a series of U.N. Security Council resolutions criticising Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Rafsanjani: No export of revolution

NICOSIA (AP) — Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is likely to become Iran's next president, says Tehran has no intention of exporting its fundamentalist revolution, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as telling the radical Jomhuri Islami daily in an interview that Iran would continue to promote Islam but "this doesn't mean interference in the affairs of others."

"We will also not seek hegemony... we do not want to strain relations with the countries which would like to have healthy ties with us," he said in a wide-ranging interview published Sunday.

Rafsanjani's remarks indicated that Iran is anxious to allay fears it is committed to establishing Islamic regimes in other Muslim countries.



Hashemi Rafsanjani

We will say our words to the world and its Muslims... among the duties the revolution has placed on our shoulders is to convey the divine message," he said.

He reiterated earlier statements that Iran would steer a political course that was "neither East nor West."

"We will under no circumstances let the revolution be influenced by the demands of East and West," he said.

Rafsanjani also admitted Iran was critically short of technical experts and managers needed to develop the economy. Thousands of skilled Iranians have left the country and educational standards have declined during the years of revolutionary fervor and the eight-year war with Iraq.

"We particularly suffer from an acute shortage of researchers," he said. "Our quantitative condition is not good, and there are many talents being wasted due to the poor level of education."

He noted that industries were running at only 30-40 per cent of capacity because of severe shortages of "materials, energy or parts."

Algerian National Assembly debates reforms

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's National Assembly has opened an extraordinary session to further debate sweeping economic and political reforms launched after last October's riots.

Deputies were due to discuss a proposed new information code, a draft electoral law and joint venture legislation designed to attract foreign capital, an assembly official said.

All are potential landmarks in Algeria's evolution since last October from a one-party socialist state to a multi-party democracy with an increasingly liberal economy.

Last year's riots over deteriorating economic conditions led President Chadli Benjedid to promise reforms enshrined in a new constitution adopted by referendum last February.

The 295-seat chamber convened an extraordinary summer

session to complete discussion of reform laws begun during a three-month spring session that ended July 3.

The information code is ex-

pected to guarantee freedom of expression and some measure of autonomy to the country's media which has been tightly controlled by the government and ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) since independence in 1962.

Information Minister Moham-

mad Ali Amar has said the law would allow political groups other than the FLN to set up their own newspapers.

But FLN secretary chief

Abdul Hamid Mehri announced

last month the country's two

largest circulation dailies, Al

Chaab in Arabic and Al Moud-

jahid in French, would remain under the FLN.

The assembly has already

adopted a law on political asso-

ciations that sets ground rules for the creation of new parties.

The draft electoral law pro-

poses a modified form of winner-take-all balloting that could be tested in local elections late this year.

The draft joint venture law, if passed, "would for the first time allow foreign investors to hold a majority share in partnerships with Algerian state enterprises."

Algeria wants foreign invest-

ment and credit to help it over-

come a heavy foreign debt hit by falling oil prices early in the 1980s.

Fundamentalists freed

Algeria has freed 14 Islamic fundamentalists convicted in 1987 of attacks against the state, a human rights activist said Sun-

day.

Miloud Ibrahim, president

Soviet ballet troupe mesmerises audience in Jerash

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An estimated 5,500 people sat in silence on the massive steps of Jerash's South Theatre for over 1½ hours this Saturday and Sunday mesmerised by the spectacle before them. The performance before them was of course a performance by the Leningrad company "Choreographic Miniatures," one of the world's most famous ballet theatre groups.

Established in 1966, the company assumed the name of the "Choreographic Miniatures." The company's director at the time was Yacobson. He introduced many different kinds of miniatures. The solo and composition themes Yacobson used were often taken from painters, sculptures and writers, such as Rodin, Chagall and Blok. The programmes expanded and today one of the group's most popular solo performances is a piece entitled "Sheherazade."

After receiving a "very warm welcome" in Jordan in 1983, when they gave seven performances to packed houses at the Royal Cultural Centre, the troupe was anxious to return to Jordan according to Nenel Petrova, who is the troupe's chief coach and a former prima ballerina of the Kirov Ballet Company.

Unfortunately for the audience at Jerash several pieces included in the original programme, had to be changed at the last moment due to a technical error — nearly all of the troupe's costumes were flown to Belgrade instead of Amman.

Professor Askold Makarov, the troupe's artistic director for the past fifteen years, said that nearly half of the 43 dancers that came to Jerash could not perform because of the costume incident.

Marisa Volkova, the ballerina who was to dance the solo in Sheherazade, said that the dancers were very upset. "We had left such a good impression on Jordan

in 1983, we wanted the public to know that we were still as good. Then this mix up happened. It distressed all of us a great deal. Such a thing has not happened to us before."

Although some members of the audience remarked that there was "something wrong about the costumes" and some "noticed the change in the programme." Others said they had "noticed nothing wrong" and found the performance "wonderful," "great" and "exquisite."

Makarov commented that the moon, the fresh air and the Roman columns in Jerash had given the troupe's performance a special touch of romance.

The audience at Jerash were described as very pleasant and encouraging by the director and the dancers. "We felt the audience was very sincere in their reactions. They knew when to stay silent or clap or laugh. We felt our audience was quite mature and understood the art of ballet," said Petrova.

Makarov was especially pleased by the audience's reaction because "we know this is a conservative Muslim society and I was pleased to see that the audience respected and appreciated our art. It was really a great honour to perform in Jordan again."

The company has travelled around the world on tours, including Arab countries such as Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Makarov feels however, that since the presidency of Mikhail Gorbachev, the company along with all other Soviet institutions have enjoyed greater freedom and better international relations on cultural as well as political levels.

In the past there were many well publicised defections of famous Soviet performers which included top ballet dancers such as Mikhail Barishnikov and Rudolf Nureyev. According to Petrova "defections are no longer



The famous Soviet ballet theatre company Choreographic Miniatures during a performance of Sheherazade

necessary since Gorbachev came into the presidency. Now if a Soviet dancer wants to dance with a foreign ballet troupe all he has to do is sign a contract."

A well known Soviet ballet dancer Andreas Leepa of the Bolshoi Ballet has signed a contract with an American ballet company and another Altinai Asilmuratova, from the Korov Ballet has signed a contract with a British company.

Nureyev and Barishnikov are expected to return to the Soviet Union this fall to perform in their homeland for the first time since the two dancers defected to the United States over a decade ago.

Dancing with the Leningrad company is Vladimir Kim who won the first prize at the international ballet competition in Varna earlier this year. "I am proud of all my dancers, not only Kim, because he received the first prize, but all 43 of them. They are special. All of them are real, profound and very subtle professionals. They are masters of different styles and what is most important, they can speak the lan-

guage of choreography... They speak the language of dance. At Jerash I noticed dance needs no translation. It is a language understood by all audiences. But only a really good dancer knows how to convey the message," said Makarov.

According to Makarov the company is not to be called avant-garde, nor traditional but rather a bit of both. The group does "not stand still as a symbol of an

undying beauty but responds to everything new without abandoning the past."

The company will give performances at the Royal Cultural Centre on June 18 and 19 before returning home to Leningrad. The costumes which until Monday night were still in Cairo will hopefully arrive in time to help the Leningrad ballet company bewitch Jordanian audiences once again.

Expatriates start paying honour tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian expatriates were reported paying a \$50 "honour tax" as endorsed by the fifth Jordanian expatriates conference earlier this month without awaiting an official government law, according to Labour Minister Jamal Bdour.

The minister said that the Ministry of Labour, which is taking charge of the contributions is referring the collected sum to the Central Bank of Jordan.

So far, the minister noted, the expatriates have transferred

\$1,400, and 100 Saudi Riyals which, he said, came from expatriates living in the Gulf countries and Australia.

The fifth Jordanian conference decided on a set of measures to help Jordan through its present difficult economic situation.

Apart from the \$50 honour tax, the expatriates decided that each one of them should transfer a minimum of \$100 to their own accounts in the Kingdom on a monthly basis.

They also decided to establish Jordan's first private university with a capital of JD 10 million, to be raised mainly by Jordanian expatriates and Gulf Arabs.

Resolutions issued at the fifth conference suggested that Jordanian expatriates whose children attend Jordanian universities or community colleges should pay their fees in foreign currency and transfer a minimum of \$100 for each of their children's residence fees on a monthly basis.

The report said that the decision to exempt the pilgrims from this fee resulted from talks between Khayyat and Prince Majed Ibn Abdul Aziz, the governor of Mecca and minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

According to the report, all the Jordanian pilgrims will have arrived in Medina from Mecca in the coming three days.

Nearly 15,000 Jordanians registered with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to perform

Europe to continue backing Jordan's efforts to develop agriculture

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The European Community (EC) countries will continue their support for Jordan's endeavours to develop agriculture and attain self-sufficiency in food production, the EC delegate in Amman, Christian Falkowski, said Monday.

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The European Community (EC) countries will continue their support for Jordan's endeavours to develop agriculture and attain self-sufficiency in food production, the EC delegate in Amman, Christian Falkowski, said Monday.

Falkowski told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the EC is linked with Jordan through a number of agreements which took effect in 1977 aiming to expand cooperation between the two sides in economic, trade, financial, industrial and agricultural fields.

The EC delegate referred in particular to an agreement signed between the two sides last April and designed to help Jordan carry out soil survey and classification projects through grants of four million European Currency Units (ECU) nearly JD 2.35 million.

He said that the agreement was part of the EC's drive to help develop rural areas in Jordan and provide sufficient basic information about

natural resources needed to help planners to work out programmes for maximum benefit of the land.

According to Falkowski, almost eight per cent of Jordan's overall exports go to the EC countries and that nearly 35 per cent of the Kingdom's imports come from EC nations.

He said that these rates are liable to increase in the future, thanks to continued cooper-

ation in all fields.

Falkowski said that the EC supports the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

He said that the economies of these countries are bound to develop through closer cooperation between them on the one hand and between the ACC nations and the EC countries on the other.

In a statement to Petra last March Falkowski praised the economic measures adopted by the Jordanian government to introduce reforms and pledged EC's continued support for the Kingdom.

Jordanian pilgrims begin returning home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian pilgrims who last week performed pilgrimage rites in Mecca have now started their return voyage home.

According to reports in the local press the pilgrims would first stop at Medina, the second holiest city for Islam, before making the trip back to Jordan.

A report in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has received a cable from Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's minister of interior, informing him of the Saudi government's decision to exempt Jordanian pilgrims from paying any fees for entry into or departure from Saudi Arabia. The departure fee stands at 28 riyals.

The report said that the decision to exempt the pilgrims from this fee resulted from talks between Khayyat and Prince Majed Ibn Abdul Aziz, the governor of Mecca and minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

According to the report, all the Jordanian pilgrims will have arrived in Medina from Mecca in the coming three days.

A PSD statement urged all travellers except pilgrims to refrain from going to the bridge terminals Friday.

this year's pilgrimage rites in Mecca and Medina.

Arrangements for their travel to and from the holy places and their accommodation in Saudi Arabia were conducted through the Ministry of Awqaf, in cooperation with the Saudi government and local transportation companies.

Meanwhile, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that some of the pilgrims have already reached Jordan.

These included some pilgrims from Palestinian land occupied since 1948 for which the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs had provided accommodation facilities in the Jordan Valley.

The Petra report said that the first convoy of these pilgrims will leave for occupied Palestine Friday.

In a separate development, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Monday that King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan will be closed for normal travel on Friday, July 23, except for the pilgrims returning to their Palestinian homeland.

A PSD statement urged all travellers except pilgrims to refrain from going to the bridge terminals Friday.

Khleifat in Ma'an

MA'AN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat visited Ma'an Governorate Monday and met with officials in charge of youth activities and organisations.

The minister was briefed on the youth activities in the governorate in general and those organised by the Sharah Club in particular.

Khleifat also inspected work on youth clubs and the second phase of a sports city in Ma'an city. He was told that the total cost of the project will amount to JD 100,000 and will entail various utilities adjoining the sports city.

The first phase of the project, which was completed last year, included a car park, the establishment of handball grounds and facilities for athletic exercises.

During the tour, the minister with the Ma'an governor to review the sports activities and to learn about the needs of the



Awad Khleifat

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) TENDER NO. 37/89/SF SUPPLY OF BLACK STEEL PIPES AND FITTINGS

- The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of Black Steel Pipes and Fittings.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Black Steel Pipes and Fittings.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the President of the Water Authority, Nablus Street, Jebel Al-Hussein, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100. Telex 22439 JO.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 300.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in Section V Schedule of Requirements, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday 19/08/1989.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of posters which show the history of puppets at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

* A scientific film entitled "The Story of Man's Voyage to the Moon" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

* A German film entitled "The Bread of the Early Years" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Argentinians tango nights away at Jerash



By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Argentina's first participation at the annual Jerash Festival was a tremendous success according to audiences who attended the Sur Tango Groups performance on July 15 and 16. The group, composed of ten dancers and musicians, gave two-hour performances to audiences that averaged 1,500 people each night.

The group's founder Jorge Aravena is an Argentinian who has lived in West Berlin for the last five years. Along with Bernd Madis, the group's principle musician, Aravena formed the group in 1984.

The tango dance, song and music have both Argentinian and German origins. The tango musical instrument, the bandoneon, was invented in 1864, by the German Heinrich Band, from whom the instrument takes its name.

The tango dance evolved in the 1880's in Buenos Aires where the Spanish tango merged with the "milonga," a fast sensual Argenti-



Jorge Aravena during one of his performances

Spice 150

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1972
جordan Times جريدة عربية مستقلة تنشر باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية

Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI
Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI
Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Sound policies

THE government's decision to crack down on merchants who maliciously hoard supplies for profiteering, is both timely and sound. The government of Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker deserves to be commended for taking such a bold step against traders whose only criterion in life is to make more unfair profit at the expense of their country and people. The Kingdom has already seen and felt the positive consequences of the iron fist policy that the government has applied against greedy establishments and individuals. Now the markets in the cities and towns are full of the very supplies that were non-existent on the shelves of supermarkets and shops just a few days ago.

This is obviously an immediate and short-range prescription for the sudden disappearance of foodstuffs and commodities. The long-range solution clearly lies in stabilising the rate of the dinar against foreign currencies both in the official and non-official markets. For as long as the exchange rate of the dinar keeps fluctuating so wildly in the free market, the anxieties of merchants, whether real or imaginary, would not disappear into thin air. That is why the recent assurances of His Majesty King Hussein, in an interview with the chief editor of Al Shark Al Awsat daily newspaper, that the government is working diligently and feverously to stabilise the exchange rate of the dinar offer the most operational way to heal the wounds created by the sporadic appearances and disappearances of goods and commodities from the market. In this vein, it might be prudent to bridge the gap between the official and non-official exchange rates of the dinar. All systems of government in the world which could not bridge such a gap ended up suffering commercially and economically. And since there is a world-wide consensus that the dinar is artificially overvalued these days, the task of closing the gap between the market and official rates of exchange need not be an impossible mission.

Meanwhile, it behoves the Jordanian business community to refrain from further exacerbating the fiscal and economic conditions currently prevailing in the country. They can do just that by engaging in fair trade practices instead of wild speculative habits that could bring havoc to the country's economy.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Monday commented on King Hussein's statement to the London-based Al Sharq Al Awsat magazine in which he tackled domestic affairs and pan-Arab issues. Al Ra'i Arabic daily referred in its editorial to the King's accusation of Israel as being behind the disturbances in the Kingdom last April and said that such conspiracies could not, and can never shake the Kingdom's solid steadfastness and can never deter Jordan from confronting Israel's expansionist and aggressive designs in the Arab World. The paper said that Jordan which guards the longest confrontation lines in the face of the Israeli enemy has succeeded in forming a solid and strong wall aborting all Israeli plots and intrigues, and defending the Arab homeland. It was natural for Israel to escalate its pressures on the Kingdom and to try to tamper with its security since it faces a revolt in the occupied Arab territories supported by Jordan and the whole Arab nation, said the paper. This is not a novelty and will not be the last time for Israel to adopt such evil methods to weaken the Arab countries and national unity is therefore needed more than at any time in the past to foil all enemy attempts directed against Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday tackles the question of the high rate of population growth in Jordan and cites official statistics which indicate that Jordan is the sixth country in the world in terms of population growth. Rakan Al Majali, who is also the paper's editor in chief, says that most Jordanian parents do not have family planning and their children increase annually making it impossible for them to cope with the requirements of the modern age and bringing up many children who in most cases suffer from malnutrition. The writer notes that mother and child care centres in the country have been spreading awareness among mothers about the futility of bringing up large families for whom they cannot provide and says that the cost of living nowadays is soaring - a fact that should prompt most parents to suffice themselves with two children. He also refers to the newly discovered facts about the depletion of the ozone layer which threatens the world with very serious consequences and a world-wide famine. The writer expresses fears that since Jordan is among the group of countries with the highest rates of population growth it will no doubt be one of the most countries to bear the brunt in times of famine.

Al Dostour daily newspaper commented on King Hussein's statements published in Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper in which he reaffirmed the solid stand of the Kingdom in the face of all conspiracies hatched by the Israeli enemy. The paper said that the hardships being confronted by Jordan were created by Israel's aggressive and expansionist designs against this country and its national unity. Referring to the King's decision to restore parliamentary rule in the country, the paper said that it reflects the self-confidence and the strong belief in the people's participation in the policy-making process and in the role of parliament as a partner in all government decisions. The paper said that the King's statement was a reassurance that the Kingdom was going ahead with its plans to deal with the economic situation with deep self-confidence and with more determination than ever.

Weekly Political Pulse

Remember Sharaf's 'tarsheed'?

IT WAS the late Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf who first coined the word "tarsheed" (rationalisation) in Jordan's eco-political jargon and had called on Jordanians to observe its call for sanity in spending. That was nearly a decade ago. Imagine, if you please, if the country did in fact heed such words back then! Instead many Jordanians viewed such a flash of yellow light from Sharif Abdul Hamid with cynicism. Others regarded it with contempt and ridicule. Now with the benefit of hindsight all of us in Jordan would readily concede that had Jordanians heeded such an early warning, the country would probably not be in the economic and financial mess it finds itself in now.

Of course, the concept of "tarsheed" as used by the late prime minister signified rationalisation in spending. That call for prudence in spending was probably incomplete in the sense that the message was addressed more to the people of Jordan than to the state apparatus. We all know now that the government was just as guilty as the people in spending beyond its means and that

had the government given a good example on restrained expenditure right from that early date, most probably much of the economic and fiscal difficulties that the Kingdom is encountering now could have been avoided.

Still, all such qualifications would not diminish the import of the alarm clock that was struck by Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf almost ten years ago. Although not an economist by profession, the late prime minister was able to see the dangers that lay ahead for the country if Jordanian style of spending and life, both private and official, continued as it did then. Curiously enough, the slow down message was made at a time when the country was at the peak of its prosperity and when economic expansion had reached unprecedented levels. All signs then indicated that the Jordanian ship can sail at full speed ahead with no apparent reason to slow down the heated economy.

What prompted Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf to ask the country to stop and think about its spending habits, even at that very early stage, is still perplexing now as it was then. Only few people, who

were privy to his inner thoughts, can offer an adequate explanation for his prognosis of gloom along the road ahead. Others who knew him less would rely only on his proven intellect and common sense as the basis for his long-range projections. Clearly the Jordanian train was moving too fast for its own safety and common sense would dictate prudence and rationalisation. Abdul Hamid Sharaf apparently sensed that the country would sooner or later fall into the trap of over-confidence in economic and fiscal planning. Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to have a permanent impact on expenditures in the country, and after his death things continued as they always did in the past — as if nothing could possibly go wrong.

The moral of this writing is that Jordan had ample warnings in the past that unless fiscal and economic macromarriage stops, the country would sooner or later encounter difficulties. As Jordan and Jordanians chose not to believe the late prime minister, the least all of us can do now is to pay tribute to the man who sounded the alarm about impending results nearly ten years ago.

By Waleed Sadi

Algerians face political, economic challenges

Editor's note: On July 2, the Algerian National Assembly passed a law that allows the creation of new political parties outside the ruling National Liberation (FLN). The assembly also adopted a law on prices that reduces the role of the state in economy. The following article, reprinted from the June 23 issue of the London-based Middle East International, focuses on the situation in Algeria on the eve of the adoption of the two laws.

By Francis Ghiles

EVER SINCE the bloody riots last October which engulfed Algiers and major cities in the west of the country in the worst violence since independence in 1962, and the popular endorsement of reforms which call for a multi-party system and the end to socialism which followed in last February's referendum, North Africa's largest country has all but vanished from world headlines.

There have been occasional outbreaks of violence since October '88, such as the riots in the eastern border town of Souk Ahras last month, and many strikes, most notably at the oil refinery in Arzew, which have halted output for weeks on end. But this relative though tense calm masks a continuing and often fierce debate between those who want to put into practise the reforms offered by the new constitution and the many, who for ideological reasons or because they want to hold on to the advantages gained over 25 years of single FLN rule, are doing all in their power to thwart President Chadli Benjedid. The absence of any forum for, let alone tradition of, reasoned debate does not help, but, understandably, people are often more intent on pouring out long silenced grievances than in engaging in constructive discussion.

The riots in Souk Ahras, for instance, were prompted by the publication of the list of beneficiaries of very scarce new housing units. Nine hundred families were chosen out of a waiting list of 7,400,200 of which were on the priority list. Accusations of favouritism were quick to fly and by the evening of 5 May, the centre of this town of 90,000 had been ransacked. The next day, the minister of the interior censored the editorial written by Mr. Kamel Belkacem, for that week's issue of *Algérie Actualité*, a

flagship of *glasnost* in recent years. This provided a timely illustration of how difficult it will be for old habits to die. The minister was assisted in his task by the editor of the FLN daily *El Moudjahid*. Mr. Nait Mazi, who qualifies as an unreconstructed Stalinist, or dare one say "Boumedienist", *El Moudjahid*'s journalists, had, a few weeks earlier, come out on strike against their editor, who acts as a bulwark of the old guard.

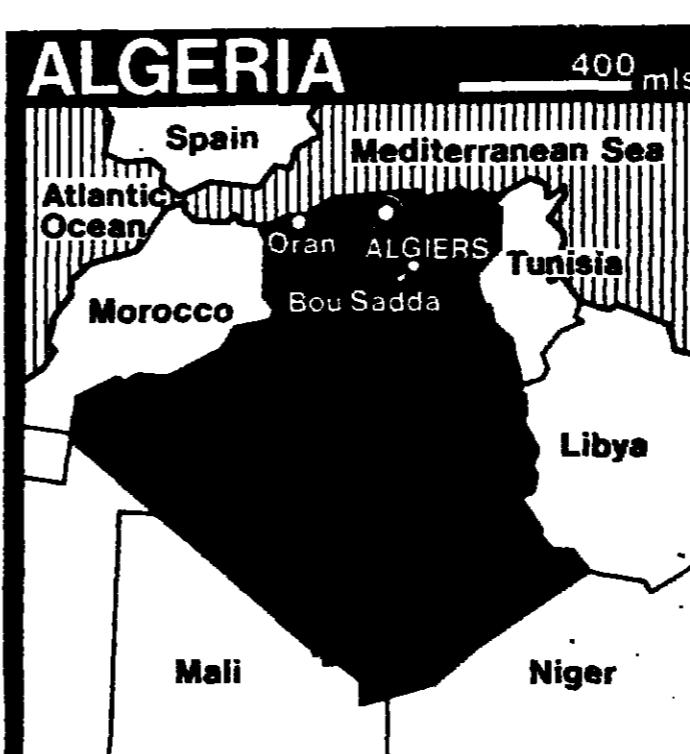
No did rocketing food prices during Ramadan help — prices collapsed as soon as the month of fasting was over, a clear illustration of how the "millions du légume" can hold 24 million Algerians to ransom. In a recent interview, the prime minister, Mr. Kasdi Merbah, conceded that the authorities' inability to control prices had left the impression that they were powerless. For the first time ever, housewives refused to buy certain produce, which suggests that they are heeding Mr. Merbah's advice to take the initiative so long as this did not result in violence.

Another feature of Ramadan which made many Algerians uncomfortable was the pressure put on their pupils by primary school teachers, many of whom are active Muslim fundamentalists. Many children were asked to check that their parents were fasting and conforming to the calms masks a continuing and often fierce debate between those who want to put into practise the reforms offered by the new constitution and the many, who for ideological reasons or because they want to hold on to the advantages gained over 25 years of single FLN rule, are doing all in their power to thwart President Chadli Benjedid. The absence of any forum for, let alone tradition of, reasoned debate does not help, but, understandably, people are often more intent on pouring out long silenced grievances than in engaging in constructive discussion.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly, all of whose members still belong to the FLN, is debating a number of important bills, three of which, if they become law, will open the way to Algeria's future as a more democratic and open society. The first concerns independent political associations, the second the media, the third relates to joint ventures between Algerian and foreign companies, which to date have been virtually ruled out because of the extremely restrictive nature of existing regulations.

Problems on the economic front

Conducting such radical poli-



The absence of any forum for, let alone tradition of, reasoned debate does not help, but, understandably, people are often more intent on pouring out long silenced grievances than in engaging in constructive discussion.

tical reforms at a time of economic austerity is not making the task of Algeria's rulers any easier, but had it not been for the collapse in the price of oil and gas, which account for 97 per cent of the country's income, the reformers would not have been able to argue the case for change between 1985 and '87. The recent agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which is to lend Algeria \$565m and the large bilateral loans extended by France, Italy, Spain and Japan have helped, as have firmer prices for crude oil and a stronger dollar.

The cumulative effect of reduced state spending is already being felt in poor maintenance of public utilities. Plant is deteriorating faster than it is being bought. The axe on public spending has fallen where it has been easiest to wield — on education, health and housing — often at the expense of more deserving targets like bloated administrations and unnecessary public corporations.

reduction of imports since 1985 would, if it persists, throttle both the state and private sectors. Gross domestic product has declined by 4 per cent over the past two years, at a time when less than half the 200,000 new entrants into the job market could find work. Black market prices have put anything but the most basic goods out of reach of the average Algerian and make a nonsense of the official inflation rate of around 15 per cent.

The cumulative effect of reduced state spending is already being felt in poor maintenance of public utilities. Plant is deteriorating faster than it is being bought. The axe on public spending has fallen where it has been easiest to wield — on education, health and housing — often at the expense of more deserving targets like bloated administrations and unnecessary public corporations.

Algeria has been scrupulous in honouring its foreign debt obligations, which have amounted to more than \$25bn annually since 1985, but financial orthodoxy has been bought at a high economic and social price over a period when foreign income has been running below \$8bn every year. Algeria's foreign debt of \$24bn is less heavy than that of many Arab and Latin American countries when set against its GDP. But it is far more expensive to service than that of neighbouring Morocco because the bulk of it is owed to commercial banks rather than multilateral lenders whose loans are extended on much softer terms.

The challenges facing the leaders

Improving the performance of the economy also means allowing the managers to manage and take decisions, even unpopular ones, and rewarding them for their skills. The *Statut Général du Travailleur* imposes a rigid grid on wages across the country and will have to be scrapped. The state-sponsored trade union, *Union Générale des Travailleurs Algériens* (UGTA) is not taking kindly to the idea of pluralism — its leaders are far more interested in protecting their long-standing powers and privileges. New unions are emerging, though it is impossible to tell whether they will succeed in breaching

UGTA's hitherto watertight monopoly. Much here depends on whether the new law on political associations allows for the proper financing of the newly formed groups.

The challenge of economic reform remains daunting. The centralised economy was, as one commentator wrote recently on Eastern Europe, not a way of running the economy. It was above all a political construct, "begun in ignorance, developed in terror, cemented in corruption (and that was the part of it which worked). Its bottom line was not profit but the party". Such words are too harsh to describe the situation in Algeria before last October's riots but the extraordinary idealism which pulsed through the early years of this country after independence in 1962 has given way to an exhausted sullenness.

Will a peasantry which has been proletarianised, workers who have got used to shoddy work, managers who have had to bribe or twist for most resources and a public which is fearful of the sacrifices market reforms will bring be capable of rising to the challenge? Are Algerian leaders able to give an example of harder work, more reasoned debate and frugal living than hitherto? These are some of the conditions required to lift the spirit of their people and set them on the road of growing wealth and a more democratic system.

LETTERS

Limit the noise

TWO years ago I wrote to one of the Arabic dailies that a car horn sends out a noise which reaches 100 decibels, according to experts' reports. The experts found out that one cannot stand a noise at 100 decibels level for more than two hours, after which he or she will be subject to fatigue and incidental nausea, headache, vibration of the brain waves, contraction of arteries and veins, hyper blood pressure, poor appetite, inability to work, feeling of tiredness and nervousness, and increased heart beats. High levels of noise affect hearing and could gradually lead to deafness. Noise also affects the foetus particularly when a mother gets exposed to high levels of noise.

Realising the gravity of this problem, the Ministry of Health in June 1987 formed a special committee to draft regulations on noise in closed and open public places. The committee submitted the draft regulations to the concerned authorities for review, endorsement and implementation. Since then nothing was said about the regulations.

Most of the countries of the world which have charted their way on the path of progress, including Jordan, have the means to enforce control to put an end to the noise pollution problems. If the regulation still needed further study and examination, then why should not the minister of interior issue instructions banning and limiting the use of horns in accordance with the authorities empowered on him under the 1984 traffic law?

Ahmad Fawzi Abu Nuwar
Amman

For all your:
Packing,
Air Freight Forwarding,
Customs Clearance,
Door-to-door Service,
Ticketing and
Reservation needs,
please call:
AMIN KAWAR & SONS
Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street
Shmeisani
P.O. Box 7806
Amman, Jordan
Tel. 60476-604696

CROWN INT'L EST.
packing, shipping,
forwarding,
storage, clearing,
door-to-door service
Agents all over the world
Tel. 654000, 650352
Fax 22205 BESEMCO JO.
P.O. Box 926497
AMMAN, JORDAN

EVERY DAY
PEOPLE WHO NEED
CLEANING SERVICES
CALL US!
Electrolux
P.O.Box 925229 AMMAN
Tel. 604671

FOR THE BEST
FOR YOUR MONEY
ADVERTISE IN
JORDAN TIMES
Jordan Times

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in
1-Hour Service
Develop your colour film at
our shop and get:
• **JUMBO photo**
size 30% larger
• **Free enlargement**
20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays
Bank - Phone: 604042
Swieqha tel: 823891

Attieh
MECCA ROAD
TEL: 827604
• Indoor Outdoor plants
• Flowers
• Landscape Gardening

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best
Chinese Restaurant
in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near
Ahliyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30
p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 638968

MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant
The only typical Chinese
cuisine in Amman.
Chinese Flaming pot is available
Take away available
Open daily 12:00-15:30
18:00-23:30
Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic
Bridge
Arman, Jordan
Tel: 661922

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers Housing
Estate, near Kilo
Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for
Lunch Friday only
Tel: 518214
Come and taste our
specialties
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel: 641093

CHINESE RESTAURANT
TAIWAN TOURISMO
Authentic Chinese Food
Korean Bar-B-Q
Charcoal Flaming Pot
Take-away service
Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m.
& 6:30 p.m. - midnight
Location: Near 3rd Circle
opposite Akilah Hospital
Tel: 659519, 659520

Kashmir Restaurant
FIRST CLASS INDIAN
RESTAURANT
Special Executive Luncheons
Take away service
available
Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm
After the Holiday Inn hotel
Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519, 659520

MEXICAN FOOD
Between 2nd &
3rd Circle
Jabal Amman
Tel: 654205
Open For
LUNCH & DINNER

Lebanese 150



The use of innovative farming techniques has helped transform parts of the desert.

Modern agriculture methods pay off in Egypt

By Henry Tanner

Invented by Archimedes.

CAIRO — Seen from a plane, a line between the vast Egyptian desert and the relatively tiny area of fertile land in the Delta and along the Nile has always looked clear and neat as if drawn by a sharp pencil. And it has not been changing over the years — or the centuries.

But now the line is becoming blurred. Little protrusions of green are beginning to push out from the Delta into the beige of sand. And islands of similar green are spreading slowly elsewhere: along the desert road from Cairo to Alexandria; round the oases in the Western desert; and along the two new canals that are pushing from the Delta eastward toward Suez and westward the Libyan border, parallel to the Mediterranean coast.

Egyptian agriculture is stirring at last — and none too soon. The country's population has reached an unmanageable 54 million and is increasing at the rate of a million every seven months.

Nearby self-sufficient, it is exporting most of its basic food.

Only a fraction of its surface is arable. It desperately needs new land for agriculture and people to ve on.

The new beginnings are tentative and even embryonic, but real hopes are riding on them:

Take the area north of Cairo's

urban sprawl just west of the lagoon where the Nile forks and the Delta begins.

Thousands of acres of desert have been newly converted there and planted with grapes, apples, peaches, mangoes and oranges on a dozen new farms. The planting started in earnest some three or four years ago after the otooled, virtually impassable sand coming out of Cairo was given a hard top. Most of the farms are privately owned but one of the largest is run by the interior Ministry on land belonging to its prison system.

An unknown Egypt

Visiting the area means taking a trip into an unknown Egypt that a world removed both from the opulence of the dusty, over-crowded cities and the fields of the Delta where water buffalo pull plows and water is still drawn from canals by spiraling pumps

The last plot to be planted are on a 15-metre rise almost a mile into the desert, and they are greening with surprising speed.

Grape vines put into the ground 18 months ago are beginning to bear the first small grapes.

On an adjoining lot, short stubby apple trees planted two and a half years ago are ripe with the first full-size yellow-and-red good-tasting Anna apples.

Elsewhere there are baby peach trees planted last January surrounded by tall corn stalks that give them shade and protect them against the desert wind. They will begin to bear fruit next year.

The secret to desert farming is constant attention to detail. "It is management-intensive," said Hatten Mostafa, who runs one of the family-owned farms together with his sister Nadia. As for the rest, the operation sounds deceptively simple.

All it took, it seems, was a system of drip irrigation tubes laid out on the desert floor, a hole for each tree and the right nutrients. Windbreaks in the form of single rows of tough needle trees divide the land. Newly planted, the trees were barely six feet tall but will eventually grow to the height of a four-story house.

The water, taken from the canal that marks the western boundary between the Delta and the desert, is being filtered in a succession of pools, then pumped up onto the higher-lying new fields. Every phase of the operation is constantly and carefully monitored.

The farmers did not do any leveling of the desert floor before planting. They are proud of having never used a bulldozer and never disturbed the hard crust of the desert floor, which remains grainy and arid between the green rows of new trees.

A strong, gusty wind failed to raise the sand in the newly planted areas but scooped up large clouds of it on nearby land that had been worked with bulldozers.

"You can grow almost anything in the desert with the proper love and care," said Mr. Mostafa. "That's what we wanted to show. We are very, very encouraged." He is constantly experimenting with new crops and new grafts.

The battle for music in Vegas

By Tim Dahlberg

The Associated Press

which was built on live entertainment — go the other way," said singer Sammy Davis Jr. "Don't let them do this to us."

Davis and a few other big name entertainers gathered recently to back the musicians.

"If we lose live music in this town, we've got serious problems," said comedian Jerry Lewis.

Lewis and Davis were appearing together at Bally's, which plans to replace the 19 musicians backing its jubilee production show with taped music but keep live musicians in its main show-room.

Hotel officials say musicians are an expensive luxury not found in Atlantic City, New Jersey, hotels, which allow taped music and synthesizers in place of live performances.

"We're not doing away with musicians in the celebrity room," said Robert Ostrovsky, a Bally's executive. But "we feel taped music is appropriate for production-type shows."

The 14 union musicians who backed the Folies Bergere show at the Tropicana walked off their jobs June 3, upset over the hotel's

unwillingness to budge on the issue. The show was closed while a tape was prepared, and reopened June 25 to what hotel officials say are increasingly full audiences.

"We're doing very well with it," said hotel spokesman Ira David Sternberg.

Musicians at Bally's and the Flamingo Hilton, meanwhile, have stayed on the job despite the refusal of the hotels to increase their offer of two to four musicians at each hotel on the payroll

and severance pay to the others.

Officials at the three resorts sent letters to the musicians last week informing them they would not be needed further when they implement their final offer July 26 and go to taped music.

Perhaps more ominously, however, to the estimated 250 musicians who make a living in the hotels is a plan by the resorts to pay musicians only for the shows they actually perform.

Many entertainers bring their own bands to Las Vegas, limiting

Growing number of elderly stirs Europe into action, debate

By Maggie Jackson
The Associated Press

LONDON — Countries from West Germany to Greece are studying how fewer young workers will support strained pension and health-care systems as Western Europe ages.

Parts of Europe have the world's highest populations of elderly people, and governments are recognizing the change. In the faster-aging north, retirees may comprise 40 per cent of some areas by 2040.

But the experts are casting aside gloomy visions of crowded old-age homes and broken economies. They say the bulk of the older population will be comfortable and have money to spend.

"Europe is in the position to be the first to enter a new social world, so what we decide to do is of great importance. Only now is anybody taking any notice of it," says Peter Laslett, a Cambridge University expert on aging.

Some of the successful farms have organized themselves in companies which will reclaim desert land, put in the irrigation system and manage the fledgling farm on a contract for others.

Desert farming took off after the government lifted crop controls on reclaimed land and freed the prices at which they produce. By contrast, in the Delta, the obligatory crops are cotton, sugar cane and rice which the farmers sell at controlled prices to the government.

Proponents of desert farming have been opposed within the government by other specialists who want continued priority to be given to the systematic intensification of existing agricultural yields in the Delta. The government, it seems, has not resolved the dispute.

Yousif Amin Wali, the minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, recently said that 100,000 acres of desert will be reclaimed this year, with similar areas planned for each of the coming years.

Farmers complain that Egypt has no extension service equipped to give them information and technological advice even though the Agriculture Ministry has received millions of dollars in technical assistance from USAID.

In one area, a parasite recently destroyed almost the entire crop of grapes. Only a few farmers received warnings from stricken colleagues in time to send out teams to hand-pick the bug from every plant and then spray with just the right chemicals.

Agricultural exports in significant quantities, moreover, are a matter of the future. There are no collective facilities for market research, transport or storage.

But at the Sunday-gardener's level at least, the idea of growing things in the sand has caught on. An economist returning to Egypt invited his old colleagues out for a cruise on the Nile on his first evening in the hope of getting an exhaustive fill-in on the national economy. But "all they wanted to talk about was the respective size of their mangoes" — IHT.

Italy is considering similar action. Most EEC citizens can re-

ceive retirement benefits at 60 or 65. Danes work the latest, to 67, and Italian women leave at 55.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has acted to abolish a \$130 weekly limit on what pensioners can earn before losing some benefits. At the same time, it has been criticized for cutting pensions as part of what the government calls "weaning Britons off the dependency culture."

The elderly increasingly contribute to the economy by filling in for the shrinking numbers of young.

Already, some older workers are being wooed back by employers like Britain's Tesco supermarket chain, which hires 35 to 69-year-olds.

"They're very reliable conscientious, and don't need so much training," says Barry Ball, the personnel manager who began Tesco's plan a year ago.

"I'm not ready for retirement; work keeps me young," says Doris Broderick, 58, who started working in a Tesco market coffee shop six months ago after being laid off from serving coffee to Lloyd's shipping staff.

Reg Bennett found out after 33 years in the grocery business that two major British supermarket chains wouldn't hire him.

But Bennett is another of 2,300 full- and part-time workers over 55 hired by Tesco since last year in areas where younger workers are scarce.

Now, Bennett, is not only working, he's been promoted — to a \$223-a-week job as supervisor of 28 produce workers at a Tesco supermarket outside London.

"I don't feel my age. But I must admit I'm tired at the end of the day," said Bennett.

Success after sixty, a British employment agency for elderly workers, reported a 60-per cent jump in requests from companies in the first two months of 1989 compared with the same period last year.

France forbids forced retirement and job advertisements aren't allowed to set age limits. But other nations, says Eurolink, have yet to follow suit.

The 12-nation European Economic Community plans a "year of the elderly" but bureaucratic delay has postponed it to 1991.

The EEC budget for elderly affairs more than doubled in 1988, but only to the equivalent of \$738,000.

Pensions are the primary concern, prompting fears that future workers could pay hefty proportions of their salaries to support pensioners.

West Germany estimates 40 per cent of its population will be over 65 by 2040, and its employers' federation says employees would have to pay 36 per cent of their salaries, or double today's rate, to sustain benefits.

The West German cabinet has proposed reforms, including hiking the retirement age for women from 60 to 65, the age at which men retire.

Italy is considering similar action. Most EEC citizens can re-



"Demographers say that while the developing world will catch up quickly, Europe has more than twice the global proportion of elderly, or 12.4 per cent, and Northern Europe has 2.5 times the world average."



ROMANIA

holidays in any season at your choice:

- Round trips for group or individual tourists to Bucharest — the garden city capital of Romania, Poiana Brasov, a full green resort in the Carpathian Mountains and Neptun resort on the Black Sea.
- Original medical treatments against scleriosis (gerovital) and rheumatism (Pelli-Amar) under high qualified medical assistance and efficient natural cure factors in Bucharest, Eforie Nord and Oradea.
- High quality hotels. Entertainment, original Romanian folklore, night clubs and games and many others...

Weekly every Thursday
For information and bookings, please contact
PETRA TOURS
Amman-Jordan, P.O. Box: 1803,
Phones: 667028/ 670267/ 670449/ 670493, Telex: 23232, Fax: 681402.

CONCORD Tel: 677420

1- AL MAWLED
(Adel Imam) — (Arabic)

2- MONEY MANIA

3- BODY ROCK

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

EGYPTIAN Tel: 675571

1) Heart Breakers

2) Scavengers

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PLAZA Tel: 677420

PINBALL SUMMER

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



Dollar of 'great Satan' is king

Iranians struggle to make a living

TEHRAN (R) — A year after Iran accepted an end to its war with Iraq, shortages of food and consumer items are forcing the average citizen to hustle for a living.

Most people pay scant attention to politics, despite the organised rallies of millions which can give the impression that Iran supports one vast, continuous political demonstration.

"Everything depends, my friend, on who you are, how much you have, and what you want," said the manager of one of the few large food shops.

And it is ironic that in a country which considers the United States the "great Satan," the U.S. dollar is king.

American cigarettes are an alternative currency. Street hawkers sell them individually, or by the packet at every few yards and

they are a most accurate real economic indicator.

Anyone with access to dollars is said to be automatically rich.

The official exchange rate moves around 76 to 82 riyals to the dollar. But all normal standards of measuring economic well-being become useless in the context of a blackmarket exchange rate that at times reaches 20 times the official rate.

The only ways to judge the health of both the national and the individual's budget is to guess at the supply and demand of real goods, or to calculate how many dollars they have.

Iranian economists calculate the national annual value of goods and services produced, the gross national product (GNP), at around \$160 to \$180 billion.

But they also estimate 90 per cent of the economy is state-run, and perhaps 80 per cent or more of that is within the riyal economy, or in other words, it does not generate foreign exchange. GNP at real dollar values is anybody's guess.

Inflation, the key indicator for individual wealth which Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi estimated at over 23 per cent in March, also means little because of the rapid fluctuation in supply of different goods.

Meat is a case in point. "Last winter, we were paying about 3,000 riyals a kilogramme and those cars provide an alternative taxi service to the battered orange taxi-cabs rumbling around Teheran.

The long summer drought has

forced farmers to kill many animals and now we can get it for 1,800, but for the same reason it is going to shoot up again soon, isn't it," she said.

Government ration coupons are issued for everything from toothpaste to rice and people carry large wads around with them, although having a coupon does not guarantee availability.

Wages are generally too low to cover costs. A low-paid worker — most of Teheran's 10 million people — can earn about 40,000 riyals a month.

A two-bed apartment in an average area rents for around 30,000 a month, Iranians said.

So people take extra jobs, anything to earn more. Those with cars provide an alternative taxi service to the battered orange taxi-cabs rumbling around Teheran.

Ali is a factory worker with one baby daughter who after work uses his battered private car as a taxi.

He gets 50 riyals for a short journey, 200 for a longer one. He is embarrassed but pleased to be given 1,000 riyals, the current price of a packet Winston, or Marlboro cigarettes.

The wealthy areas of northern Teheran, where businessmen live behind barred windows with their cars and stereos, contrast with the poor housing estates of the south and west, where workers and refugees from bombed-out towns on the old frontline live.

Other tell-tale signs of an economy in distress offer themselves — deserted building sites, roadworks with stagnant water in the holes, shuttered restaurants, and expensive toys gathering dust in toyshop windows.

Israelis plan to shake government

ACRE (R) — Israeli workers have called a general strike for two hours next Sunday to protest against government handling of unemployment, now at its highest in 20 years.

"The government is behaving with a great deal of laziness," Yisrael Kesser, head of the powerful Histadrut trade federation, said Monday. The federation represents more than 80 per cent of the Israeli work force.

"We have been forced to take the unusual step of striking the economy to shake up the government. I want to hope it will be the last step, but if not, we will have to take additional steps," Kesser told reporters in the northern coastal town of Acre.

Israeli officials said Monday the unemployment rate had exceeded nine per cent.

"There are 140,000 unemployed against only 20,000 jobs available. That is the gap," said David Mena, director-general of the Israeli Employment Service.

Israel is suffering an economic slowdown largely because of the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Unemployment has risen from 6.4 per cent last year.

Last month Israeli mayors chained themselves together outside the building where the cabinet was meeting and protested to Finance Minister Shimon Peres over rising unemployment.

Peres, head of the Labour Party, has devalued the shekel by about 16 per cent against the dollar.

Soviet farms dwarf U.S. family enterprises

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major new reference by the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) shows that the Soviet Union has about 1.5 billion acres (607 million hectares) of agricultural land spread among huge farms that dwarf most U.S. enterprises.

For example, the average size of state-owned farms in the Soviet Union is almost 40,000 acres (16,188 hectares). Collective farms operated cooperatively by families average nearly 16,000 acres (6,475 hectares) each.

In all, the Soviet Union in 1985 — the most recent figures tabulated — had 22,690 state farms and 26,660 collectives. No figures were available for private plots.

According to USDA estimates for last year, the United States had 999 million acres (404 million hectares) in about 2.16 million farms, virtually all privately owned and operated as family enterprises. Those averaged 463 acres (187 hectares) each.

The new booklet published by

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT & SALE Furnished or Unfurnished

In Shmeisani, Sweifieh, Abdoun and many other locations.

For more information please call
Wael Real Estate Tel: 685342

the department's Economic Research Service is the first revision of statistics for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union since 1983, said Nancy Cochrane, who coordinated the project.

New tables have been added on farm structure for selected countries, and these reflect some of the recent wave of reforms in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

No comparisons are made between those countries and the United States, however, and many of the units are in the metric system. For example, hectares are used for land area, with one hectare equal to 2.47 acres.

In all, the Soviet Union in 1985 — the most recent figures tabulated — had 22,690 state farms and 26,660 collectives. No figures were available for private plots.

Besides the Soviet Union, seven Eastern European countries are included: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia. Albania was omitted.

Official statistical sources of the countries were used as the primary source of information, along with some supplemental sources. However, Cochrane noted that "data on Albania were too scarce to include."

The 129-page booklet shows some of the many changes and differences that have occurred in agriculture in the Soviet Bloc

since 1965. In the past, it was a common practice for all the countries except Yugoslavia to distinguish between two types of socialised farms, state and collective, or cooperative.

"This system has been changing in many of the countries since the early 1970s," Cochrane said in the booklet's introduction. "Bulgaria has abolished the system altogether in favour of agro-industrial complexes."

She added: "Some of the distinctions between state and cooperative farms have been blurred in all the countries. Wages, for example, are increasingly linked to productivity, even on the state farms."

In addition to the socialised agriculture, each country permits a certain amount of private farming. Except for Yugoslavia and Poland, it involves mostly small plots, usually half a hectare (about 1.25 acres), allotted to collective farm members, state farm employees and certain individuals.

The private plots make up 2.7 per cent of the arable land in the Soviet Union, as much as 13 per cent in Bulgaria and Hungary, and 14 per cent in Romania.

"Despite its small share of the arable land, the private sector in these countries can contribute as

much as 25 per cent to 35 per cent of gross agricultural output," Cochrane said.

Plotholders tend to specialise in labour-intensive lines of production such as livestock products and fruits and vegetables."

Agriculture in Yugoslavia and Poland is dominated by small, privately owned farms. In 1985, those accounted for 77 per cent of the arable land in Poland and 80 per cent in Yugoslavia and their shares of gross farm output were 78 per cent and 69 percent, respectively.

Private farms in both countries are very small, averaging less than five hectares, or about 12 acres, in Poland, and only 2.5 hectares, or a little more than six acres, in Yugoslavia.

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's gold reserves hit a new high after the government resumed imports of the metal, the central bank said

The private plots make up 2.7 per cent of the arable land in the Soviet Union, as much as 13 per cent in Bulgaria and Hungary, and 14 per cent in Romania.

Gold reserves rose to 13.54 million ounces at the end of May from 13.49 million in April and compared with 12.94 million in May 1988, the bank said.

Taiwan was the world's biggest gold importer in 1988 although the central bank halted purchases in July that year after Washington said its imports were intended to reduce artificially the island's huge trade surplus with the United States.

A bank official declined to say where the latest imports came

Poor Seven want cash to monitor G-7 policies

PARIS (R) — Organisers of the Poor People's Summit have said they had asked France to put up cash to help them monitor the West's economic policies.

Representatives of seven of the world's poorest nations said they wanted to set up a permanent centre to keep track of the policies of the seven leading industrial democracies, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The "summit of seven poor peoples" held rival summit talks in a seedy Paris meeting hall over the weekend as leaders of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy held their annual economic discussions in the glass pyramid of the Louvre Museum and the futuristic Arch De La Defense.

Organisers of the alternative summit of peasant leaders and community workers from Brazil, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mozambique, the Philippines and Zaire, told a news conference they had asked President Francois Mitterrand's top adviser to consider French government funding for the project.

"We'll have to see about that," they quoted him as replying.

French presidential adviser Jacques Attali briefly received a delegation from the counter-summit Saturday and promised he would hand the heads of state and government leaders a copy of their appeal.

"We refuse to allow the seven (rich) the right for speak in the name of the entire world and to decide for the whole of humanity," the poor seven said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Ministry registers 144 new companies

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of companies registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade last June totalled 144 companies with an overall capital amounting to JD 3.6 million, an increase of about 11.2 per cent over June 1988. Ministry of Industry and Trade sources said that the number of companies registered in the same period last year was 139 companies with an aggregate capital of JD 1.7 million. The sources said that 75 per cent of the capital of the new registered companies was in industry, 19.6 per cent in commerce, 1.9 per cent in contracting and 3.4 per cent in services.

Libya adheres to OPEC quota

NICOSIA (R) — Libya's crude oil production in the second quarter of 1989 averaged 1.1 million barrels per day (b/d), compared with its OPEC quota of 1.037 million b/d, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported. OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) has allocated Libya a quota of 1.093 million b/d for the second half of 1989. MEES said about half of Libya's production was either used locally or in European refineries in which Libya's Oil Investment International Co. holds equity interests. It said Libya's domestic refining averaged 310,000 b/d in the second quarter of 1989, while it supplied 340,000 b/d of crude to refineries in Italy and 70,000 b/d to Coastal's Hamburg plant. The Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said Brega International Marketing Co., the marketing arm of Libya's National Oil Corp. (NOC), received around 320,000 b/d of crude for sale to third parties. A further 118,000 b/d of oil was set aside for equity holders and 157,000 b/d for countries which have barter trade agreements with Libya.

Steel plant to make soap

MOSCOW (R) — A steel plant which failed to receive its rations of soap has decided to make it, a Soviet newspaper has reported. The plant in the industrial city of Magnitogorsk in the Urals converted part of its capacity to make soap which is in short supply throughout the Soviet Union. In some provincial areas, soap is rationed at the rate of 100 grammes (3.5 ounces) — about the size of one standard bar — per person every three months.

Egypt lowers oil export prices

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt lowered its oil-export prices by 25 cents a barrel for all grades effective July 16, a senior oil ministry official said Monday. The new price for top-grade Gulf of Suez blend is \$15.75 a barrel and \$14.90 a barrel for Belayim, said Hammad Ayoub, head of the ministry's foreign trade department. He said Ras Badran sells for \$13.75 a barrel and Ras Ghareb for \$13.45 a barrel. Ayoub did not indicate how long the prices would remain in effect. This is the second reduction in oil-export prices in a month. The first, on July 3, brought down prices by \$1.75 a barrel for all grades.

Taiwan gold reserves hit new highs

Taiwan's mainly private sector gold imports plunged to 94.8 tonnes in the first half of 1989 from 249.56 tonnes in the same period last year.

Dealers said imports would rise later this year because of the tariff removal, which would also substantially reduce gold smuggling.

About 150 tonnes of gold were smuggled into Taiwan last year.

They said some speculative funds, previously invested in stocks and with illegal investment houses, were shifting to gold.

"There is room for profits if people buy gold now because of low prices," a Hong Kong bullion dealer said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, July 17, 1989		Swiss franc	138.8	342.2
Central Bank official rates		French franc	86.3	87.2
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	396.9	400.9
559.6	565.6	Dutch guilder	259.8	262.1
899.5	908.5	Swedish crown	88.0	88.9
293.1	296.0	Italian lira (for 100)	40.4	40.8
		Belgian franc	139.6	141.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6060/70	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1915/25	Canadian dollar
	1.9125/30	Deutschmarks
	2.1570/80	Dutch guilders
	1.6530/40	Swiss francs
	40.02/05	Belgian francs
	6,4900/50	French francs
	1386/1387	Italian lire
</		

Record 41 countries to contest Federation Cup

TOKYO (AP) — Led by top-seeded United States and defending champion Czechoslovakia, a record 41 countries are slated to compete in the Federation Cup tennis tournament, the women's version of the Davis Cup, in Tokyo this October, organizers said Monday.

The tournament will be held on the hard courts of Ariake Colosseum on Tokyo Oct. 1-8, they said.

The four-member U.S. team consists of Martina Navratilova, ranked second in the world, Chris Evert, no. 4, Pam Shriver, no. 9, and Zina Garrison, no. 5; they

said.

Helena Sukova, no. 6 in the world, will lead the Czechoslovakian team.

The rest of the world's top 10 female tennis players also will represent their respective teams, the organizers said. Steffi Graf, no. 1 in the world, heads the West German team; Gabriela Sabatini, no. 3, leads Argentina; Manuela Maleeva, no. 7, heads Bulgaria; and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, no. 8, and Conchita Martinez, no. 10, lead Spain, they said.

Steeb rallies in Gstaad

GSTAAD, Switzerland (R) — Karl-Uwe Steeb gave a timely oot to West Germany's prospects in this week's Davis Cup tie against the United States when he came back from two sets down to notch his first Grand Prix victory.

Steeb, ranked 28th in the world and seeded eighth in the Gstaad tournament, subdued unseeded Swede Magnus Gustafsson 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in just under three hours in the final to collect his winner's cheque for \$55,000.

Coming hard on the heels of Ioris Becker's Wimbledon triumph a week ago, Steeb's win will shoot the Davis Cup holders' confidence sky-high ahead of the Munich semifinal which starts Friday.

Gustafsson, at 22 a year older than his opponent, had seemed certain to clinch his first Grand Prix victory after taking the first

set on an 8-6 tiebreak in less than an hour, and racing through the second in 25 minutes.

Steeb, clearly unsettled by a line call overrule from the umpire which allowed the Swede to level the tiebreak at 6-6, promptly double-faulted to surrender the first set and, still upset, offered only token resistance in the second.

But he shrugged off his disappointment and, with his booming first service which had been sadly off target earlier now working perfectly, stormed back to take the next two and level the match.

Gustafsson, 65th in the world, failed to recover his early momentum when he had pressured the West German relentlessly with searing forehand and doublefisted backhand passes.

Two service breaks in the fifth and seventh games of the decider wrapped up the match.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

SPOT THE ERROR

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A K 8 4
♥ 6 4
♦ A Q 5
♣ Q J 9 3

WEST
♦ Q J 5 3
♥ 3
♦ 9 8 7 3
♣ A K 6 4 2

EAST
♦ 6 2
♥ A K Q 7 5 2
♦ J 10
♣ 10 7 5

SOUTH
Pass Pass
Pass Pass

The bidding:
North East South West

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 ♦ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

Here's a chance for you to test your analytical skills. Study the bidding and play, then decide whether the result was par or whether either declarer or one of the defenders slipped.

A brief note on the bidding. A mere two hearts by South would have been regressive, so his jump to three hearts was invitational. He would have been wiser to pass three no trump, even though a spade lead would defeat that contract because

hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Who is the guilty-party? East. His slip? Echoing in clubs when the last thing he wanted was to ruff a club?

East had a natural trump trick, so there as no reason for him to desire a club ruff. It was surely impossible for West to have any winner outside the club suit—East could already account for virtually every card in the deck!

What was possibly crucial was for East to get his partner to shift to a diamond through dummy's tenace, so that he could ring up his king before declarer had a chance to get a diamond discard. Therefore, he should have played the discouraging dence of clubs to the first trick.

The only logical shift for West was to a diamond. That would have permitted the defenders to get the four tricks they were due—two clubs, a trump and a diamond.

Hearts are 4-1 and the diamond finesse fails.

West led the king of clubs, and East signalled with the eight. West dutifully continued with the ace of clubs and another, ruffed by East. Declarer won the spade return in dummy, drew trumps, crossed to the table with a high spade and discarded a diamond on the queen of clubs. He claimed the rest.

The play seems normal enough, yet there was an egregious error.

Gandhi, Bhutto pledge regional stability

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto ended a 17-hour visit Monday with a pledge to forge "peace and security in the region."

The two leaders told reporters that the road to better relations between the two traditionally-hostile nations is fraught with obstacles. But "peace in the region is a noble cause and worth pursuing," said Bhutto.

"Each country has an opposition, but a government cannot be hostage to partisan considerations," she said. "If one must be hostage, one should be hostage to history and the judgment of history."

The joint pledge was the first time since 1960 that direct bilateral talks have been held between the leaders of the two regional powers.

Twenty-nine years ago Gandhi's grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru met President Aza Khan. But since Pakistan was carved out of India in 1947 the nations have gone to war three times.

No agreements were announced at the 25-minute news conference. The prime ministers said their talks ran the gambit from the threat of a regional nuclear arms race to the disputed

the Himalayan state of Kashmir, cause of two of the three wars between their countries since 1947.

Bhutto said: "We do not believe in nuclear proliferation... we believe in peace, global peace, regional peace."

Last December, when Pakistan hosted a summit of South Asian nations, India and Pakistan signed an agreement not to attack one another's nuclear facilities.

Although Pakistan has offered to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection, Bhutto said her country will not act unilaterally. India has rejected the inspection proposal.

Gandhi arrived in the Pakistani capital Sunday to colourful banners and ceremonial 19-gun salute. But hidden from the Indian prime minister were protesting residents of Kashmir — fearful that Pakistan and India might reach a settlement dividing their homeland. Eleven political parties operating in the disputed Kashmir region organised about 300 people to protest Gandhi's arrival.

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of making nuclear weapons, a charge denied in Islamabad. India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 but says it has not gone on to make weapons.

The two leaders also confirmed their difference of opinion over

Siachen Glacier separating the nations.

However, the two prime ministers briefly clashed over Islamabad's controversial nuclear policy.

Gandhi told a questioner that Pakistan's nuclear programme was one of India's main concerns.

"Pakistan's programme is entirely under military control. It is not open like our programme... which can be discussed in parliament," he said.

Bhutto sitting beside him, seemed surprised and quickly interjected:

"I would like to take this opportunity to assure the Indian prime minister that our nuclear programme is not under military control. The government is seized of the matter."

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of making nuclear weapons, a charge denied in Islamabad. India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 but says it has not gone on to make weapons.

The two leaders also confirmed their difference of opinion over



Rajiv Gandhi



Benazir Bhutto

Chowdry, of the Azad Muslim Conference.

The protesters said they wanted the fate of Kashmir resolved through a plebiscite in line with a 1949 U.N. resolution.

But the two leaders said they favoured a 1972 agreement calling for a solution through bilateral talks.

Asked about the possibility of a plebiscite to determine the future of the Muslim-majority state, a long-standing Pakistani demand, Gandhi said: "The question of a plebiscite in Kashmir, from our point of view is out."

Bhutto commented simply: "We have differing positions on Kashmir."

Indian and Pakistani forces now face one another from outposts on the inhospitable Siachen

glacier, which is part of the Karakorum Mountain range at the northern edge of the Himalayas.

Control over the disputed 6,000-metre glacier in northeastern Pakistan and northwestern India would give either nation control over the northern end of Kashmir.

Gandhi, who arrived in Islamabad after visiting Moscow, the major backer of the Communist government in war-torn Afghanistan, said he came without a message for Pakistan from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

On Sunday, Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan asked Gandhi to take "positive confidence-building measures" to dispel Pakistan's impression that India wanted to dominate the region.

Indian leader hits Colombo's approach

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Monday bluntly attacked Sri Lanka as "sloppy" in its handling of a row over the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island.

At a news conference on his return from visits to Paris, Moscow and Islamabad, Gandhi condemned Sri Lanka's attitude in the dispute about when 45,000 Indian troops should leave the country.

"The whole way that it has been handled by the Sri Lankan government, I think, is very sloppy. It is not the way relations between the two countries should be handled," he said.

Asked about Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne's threat to expel Indian troops if they were not withdrawn by the end of the month, Gandhi said: "I hope good sense prevails."

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has told India to leave Sri Lanka two years ago to help end a Tamil separatist rebellion, to leave by the end of July.

India has refused, saying promises of Tamil autonomy made in a 1987 accord signed by Gandhi and former Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene have not been fulfilled. Indian troops could not leave until autonomy was granted and Tamils felt safe.

New Delhi said.

The Indians were sent to disarm Tamil rebels, and the formidable Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas refused to abide by the accord's conditions. Nearly 1,000 Indian soldiers have been killed.

Gandhi accused Sri Lanka of renegotiating on its promise of autonomy for Tamils, most of whom live in the northern and eastern areas of the Indian Ocean island.

"There seems to be a tendency on the part of the Sri Lankan government to backtrack on the contractual obligations to devote power to the Sri Lankan Tamils."

"This is a dangerous direction the Sri Lankan government is taking and I hope they realise the gravity of this decision of theirs," Gandhi said.

Gandhi said India had signed the accord only because Sri Lanka, 13 per cent of the country's 16 million people, were not willing to trust their government.

"That is why we had to come in... we had to be guarantors," he said.

Gandhi denied charges that India's rows with Sri Lanka and Nepal — the latter over renewing trade and transit accords for the landlocked Himalayan nation — signalled the emergence of a country using military power to dominate South Asia.

COLUMN 8

Presley-lookalike gets go-ahead

JACKSON (AP) — A rosy likeness of rock 'n' roll king Elvis Presley will appear on Mississippi's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day after all. Barry Ward, a Memphis, Tennessee, attorney representing Presley's estate, said Thursday that an earlier decision against allowing use of the likeness had been reversed. The Mississippi parade entry is planned as a tribute to the magnolia state's musicians. "The estate does not like, normally, to have Elvis associated with any other artists," Ward said.

"The other artists that are going to be featured on the float are outstanding in their field, even though it was a different field from Elvis." With the floral bust of Presley will be likenesses of bluesman B.B. King, opera diva Leontyne Price and country singer Tammy Wynette. Ward said the original decision was reconsidered because of the float's importance to Mississippi and Mississippians.

The \$102,500 float was already under construction in Pasadena, California, where the parade is held.

An act for an elephant

WILKES-BARRE, Pennsylvania (AP) — Alberto Zoppe, who tours the country with his Zoppe Circus Europa, god his big break when his family traded him for an elephant. Zoppe, a sixth-generation circus performer, was working with his family circus in Italy in 1947 when the ringling brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus asked him to take his bareback horse-riding act to the United States. His family was struggling after World War II and he did not want to leave them shorthanded, so he agreed to leave on one condition — the American circus had to give his family an elephant. "I knew they had 52 elephants and we didn't have any, so I didn't want to leave my family without anything," the 67-year-old circus owner said as he prepared for an opening here.

Forty-two years later, Zoppe, 67, tours with his own family circus in the United States and Canada.

Drawls baffle Texans

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas is so big that language differences have developed in different parts of the lone star state. Just like tourists from the northern United States who cannot decipher a Texan accent, sometimes even fellow Texans are unable to understand each other. During debate in the Texas senate, a lawmaker from Western Texas happened to use the word "ostiches." A colleague from the southern part of the state, Carlos Trujillo, appeared puzzled. "I thought you said oysters," he interrupted. "You know how we talk out West," said Bill Sims of San Angelo.

Governor turns non-speaking star

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Florida Governor Bob Martinez' acting abilities are up for review in the latest James Bond movie, Licence to Kill. "My name is Martinez, Bob Martinez," the governor said in his best Bond imitation as he welcomed 300 guests for the Tallahassee premiere of the movie, which stars Timothy Dalton as Bond. Martinez's hon-speaking cameo as a customs agent in an airport scene drew applause from the audience. That scene and much of the rest of the film were shot in Key West. The governor got the spot as a result of a 1987 trip to California to drum up movie business for Florida.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MON	TUE	WED
AMSTERDAM	10 50 19	10 50 19	Cloudy
ATHENS	22 72 36	22 72 36	Cloudy
BANGKOK	30 86 37	30 86 37	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	25 77 33	25 77 33	Cloudy
CAIRO	24 84 30	24 84 30	Cloudy
CHICAGO	24 81 25	24 81 25	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	17 61 28	17 61 28	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	08 45 19	08 45 19	Cloudy
GENEVA	10 50 27	10 50 27	Cloudy
HONG KONG	28 83 32	28 83 32	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	25 77 33	25 77 33	Cloudy
LONDON	16 81 28	16 81 28	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	19 64 30	19 64 30	Cloudy
MADRID	19 62 37	19 62 37	Cloudy
MELBOURNE	29 64 44	29 64 44	Cloudy
MOSCOW	16 61 24	16 61 24	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	12 54 24	12 54 24	Cloudy
NEW YORK	17 63 33	17 63 33	Cloudy
PARIS	14 57 28	14 57 28	Cloudy
ROME	18 64 28	18 64 28	Cloudy
SYDNEY	06 57 21	06 57 21	Cloudy
TOKYO	20 68 29	20 68 29	Cloudy
VIENNA	14 57 22	14 57 22	Cloudy

— indicates missing information

China lambasts G-7 declaration

PEKING (Agencies) — China angrily attacked the world's seven leading industrial nations Monday for what it called "gross interference" and rejected condemnation of its crushing of student demonstrators in Peking last month.

The actions taken by the Chinese government have in no way offended the West or any other country, the People's Daily said. "The problem arises simply because certain countries, out of their own likes and dislikes and their sense of value, have in a broad scope directly damaged China's interests and dignity with words and deeds."

The editorial said China has "global strategic importance and can provide an enormous market. The near-sighted practice of keeping China away from the world community may not only undermine world peace and stability, but hurt the interests of the Western countries as well."

For years China crafted its own foreign policy with a heavily ideological content, but in the past decade it has shifted to a more hard-nosed policy based on practical interests. It has shed its isolation of the 1960s and early 1970s. And official exchanges in education, culture, science and sports have become routine.

Military sales and ministerial visits to China have already been cancelled.

China's official press has not reported the sections of the Group of Seven (G-7) declaration concerning China. Chinese can no longer look for information in foreign newspapers as sales were banned in Peking late last week.

More than 200 civilians were killed by official count when the

army attacked crowds protecting the protesters June 3. Western intelligence sources said up to 3,000 may have died. Thousands have been arrested nationwide since and the official media have reported 12 executions directly linked to the protests.

The actions taken by the Chinese government have in no way offended the West or any other country, the People's Daily said. "The problem arises simply because certain countries, out of their own likes and dislikes and their sense of value, have in a broad scope directly damaged China's interests and dignity with words and deeds."

The editorial said China has "global strategic importance and can provide an enormous market. The near-sighted practice of keeping China away from the world community may not only undermine world peace and stability, but hurt the interests of the Western countries as well."

For years China crafted its own foreign policy with a heavily ideological content, but in the past decade it has shifted to a more hard-nosed policy based on practical interests. It has shed its isolation of the 1960s and early 1970s. And official exchanges in education, culture, science and sports have become routine.

Military sales and ministerial visits to China have already been cancelled.

China's official press has not reported the sections of the Group of Seven (G-7) declaration concerning China. Chinese can no longer look for information in foreign newspapers as sales were banned in Peking late last week.

More than 200 civilians were

killed by official count when the

army attacked crowds protecting the protesters June 3. Western intelligence sources said up to 3,000 may have died. Thousands have been arrested nationwide since and the official media have reported 12 executions directly linked to the protests.

The actions taken by the Chinese government have in no way offended the West or any other country, the People's Daily said. "The problem arises simply because certain countries, out of their own likes and dislikes and their sense of value, have in a broad scope directly damaged China's interests and dignity with words and deeds."

The editorial said China has "global strategic importance and can provide an enormous market. The near-sighted practice of keeping China away from the world community may not only undermine world peace and stability, but hurt the interests of the Western countries as well."

For years China crafted its own foreign policy with a heavily ideological content, but in the past decade it has shifted to a more hard-nosed policy based on practical interests. It has shed its isolation of the 1960s and early 1970s. And official exchanges in education, culture, science and sports have become routine.

Military sales and ministerial visits to China have already been cancelled.

China's official press has not

reported the sections of the Group of Seven (G-7) declaration concerning China. Chinese can no longer look for information in foreign newspapers as sales were banned in Peking late last week.

More than 200 civilians were

killed by official count when the

army attacked crowds protecting the protesters June 3. Western intelligence sources said up to 3,000 may have died. Thousands have been arrested nationwide since and the official media have reported 12 executions directly linked to the protests.

The actions taken by the Chinese government have in no way offended the West or any other country, the People's Daily said. "The problem arises simply because certain countries, out of their own likes and dislikes and their sense of value, have in a broad scope directly damaged China's interests and dignity with words and deeds."

The editorial said China has "global strategic importance and can provide an enormous market. The near-sighted practice of keeping China away from the world community may not only undermine world peace and stability, but hurt the interests of the Western countries as well."

For years China crafted its own foreign policy with a heavily ideological content, but in the past decade it has shifted to a more hard-nosed policy based on practical interests. It has shed its isolation of